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FOREST CONTROL

by CONTINUOUS INVENTORY

"Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees."

...Karle Wilson

August, 1966

No. 145

As promised last month, more on the development of a standard program for processing continuous forest inventory data is attached in Research Note No. 1 from the Ford Forestry Center, Michigan Technological University, Alberta, Michigan. It is entitled "Standard Input for Computer Processing of Forestry Inventory Data" by J. W. Meter, C. B. Stott and J. F. Jewell.

We shall hear directly from them through other Research Notes which will be sent out as part of this newsletter. The successful completion of a widely useful data processing program for CFI will be accomplished sooner, more easily and to cover a broader field of usefulness with your considered opinions of the elements of it as they are developed and presented in these Research Notes. Please do not hesitate to send your suggestions and encouragement to the team at the Ford Forestry Center.

Not specifically emphasized in the Research Note are two important items. (1) Field data as presently collected on practically all going CFI cases will fit directly into this standard program. Field records need only to be machine reproduced from the tally format to the computer input format outlined. (2) This standard processing program is being written in universal FORTRAN source language. Some versions of FORTRAN are so complex that they can be used only with certain highly sophisticated computer systems. This FORTRAN source program (the program directly written by the programmer) will be directly translatable (in computer terminology assembled) into object programs (programs in the language the machine understands) which will run on many of the large and moderately-sized computer systems. Possibly, it can be assembled to work on a computer immediately available to you.

This may still be pretty wild ADP language to some of you, but I hope it does help show why this particular program will be more widely useful than many standard programs which are restricted to particular computer systems.

BILL BARTON



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THE DIAMETER TAPE
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